

LAUDATO SI WEEK

MAY 2022

PRESERVING MARINE
BIO-DIVERSITY FOR A
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE &
JOURNEYING WITH THE
COASTAL COMMUNITIES

DATE: 27TH MAY 2022
TIME: 5.00 PM TO 6.15 PM IST

LINK FOR
REGISTRATION



[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtc-6vrTMIetzKj0zElBoqbbru_fkYuh5Y](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/91987637921)



Conference Development Office (CDO)

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BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

Laudato Si' has enlivened communities across the globe to work to mitigate the ecological crisis and climate emergency. At the invitation of Pope Francis, Laudato Si' Week, is observed across the globe in the third/last week of May every year. This year the Laudato Si Week will be observed globally by the Catholics from 22nd to 29th May 2022.

The purpose of this online event is to observe the Laudato Si week and inspire the communities to care for our Common Home, importantly for the Oceans and for our fellow beings.

The Indian Ocean is warming at a higher rate than the other oceans around the world. Global warming and its implications for the Indian Ocean region remain the foremost issue that needs to be addressed. With warming levels estimated to be three times higher than in the Pacific, coastal areas across the Indian Ocean region are likely to see a continuous rise in sea levels, resulting in severe coastal erosion. This in turn will result in frequent flooding in low-lying areas. The Indian Ocean is rising at a level of 3.7 millimeters annually, and extreme sea disasters can be expected nearly every year.

Oceans not only contain the bulk of our planet's water supply, but also most of the immense variety of living creatures, many of them still unknown to us and threatened for various reasons. What is more, marine life in rivers, lakes, seas and oceans, which feeds a great part of the world's population, is affected by uncontrolled fishing, leading to a drastic depletion of certain species. Selective forms of fishing which discard much of what they collect continue unabated. Particularly threatened are marine organisms which we tend to overlook, like some forms of plankton; they represent a significant element in the ocean food chain, and species used for our food ultimately depend on them.

The Indian Ocean region also remains a biodiversity hotspot, one that is home to several million species of flora and fauna. Increased pollution levels, combined with overfishing, pose a major threat to the rainforests, marine reefs, and other ecosystems in the region. The environmental threats also have significant implications for the fishing community. Millions of fisher folks depend on the natural resources of the region for their livelihood, which is at stake in the current situation.

The growing problem of marine waste and the protection of the open seas represent particular challenges. What is needed, in effect, is an agreement on systems of governance for the whole range of so-called "global commons".

Ecological conversion is needed for addressing the root causes of the crises that humankind is facing. It involves the rebuilding and strengthening of relationships with creation.

It is a process with roots that are transcendent even before being social or political. "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (LS 217). This event is a call to reflect on the responsibility entrusted to us by the Creator God and as a Church how we can proactively engage in bringing about the desired changes in and through our actions in caring for our common home and especially the Ocean.

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE:


Opening Prayer (prayer for our Common Home, from Laudato Si Encyclical)	- 5.00 to 5.05 pm
Welcome	- 5.05 to 5.10 pm
Impacts of Climate Change on Indian Ocean & Future Predictions - Dr.Roxy Mathew Koll, Climate Scientist, Centre for Climate Change Research / Indian Institute of Tropical Metrology	- 5.10 to 5.30 pm
Questions and Answers Session	- 5:30 to 5:40 Pm
Sharing on Laudato Si Movement – Asia Pacific & its engagement in the region – Ms.Cheryl Dugan, Program Manager, Laudato Si Movement – Asia Pacific -	- 5.40 to 5.50 pm
Current Status on Marine Bio-Diversity, Fisheries and Fishing Communities in India – Dr.Victor Roch, Educationist & Scientist, Loyola College of Chennai	- 5.50 to 6.05 pm
Questions and Answers Session	- 6.05 to 6.10 pm
Vote of Thanks	- 6.10 to 6.15 pm



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Climate Change & its Impacts on Indian Ocean and future predictions -
Dr. Roxy Mathew Koll, Climate Scientist, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology.



Sharing on Laudato Si Movement -
Ms. Cheryl Dugan – Program Manager, Laudato Si Movement – Asia Pacific



Current status on Marine Bio-Diversity, fisheries and fishing communities in India -
Dr. G. Victor Roch, SJ, Educationist & Scientist - Loyola College Chennai

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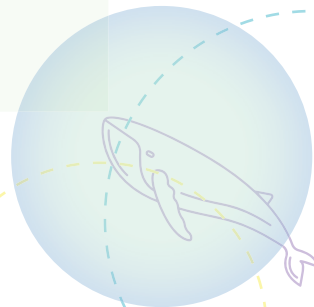
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